

# C V P I D S M E S S E N G E R

O R,

A trusty Friend stored with sundry sorts of serious, witty,  
pleasant, amorous, and delightfull Letters.

*What Cupid blushes to discover, Thus to write he learns the Lover.*

Newly Written.

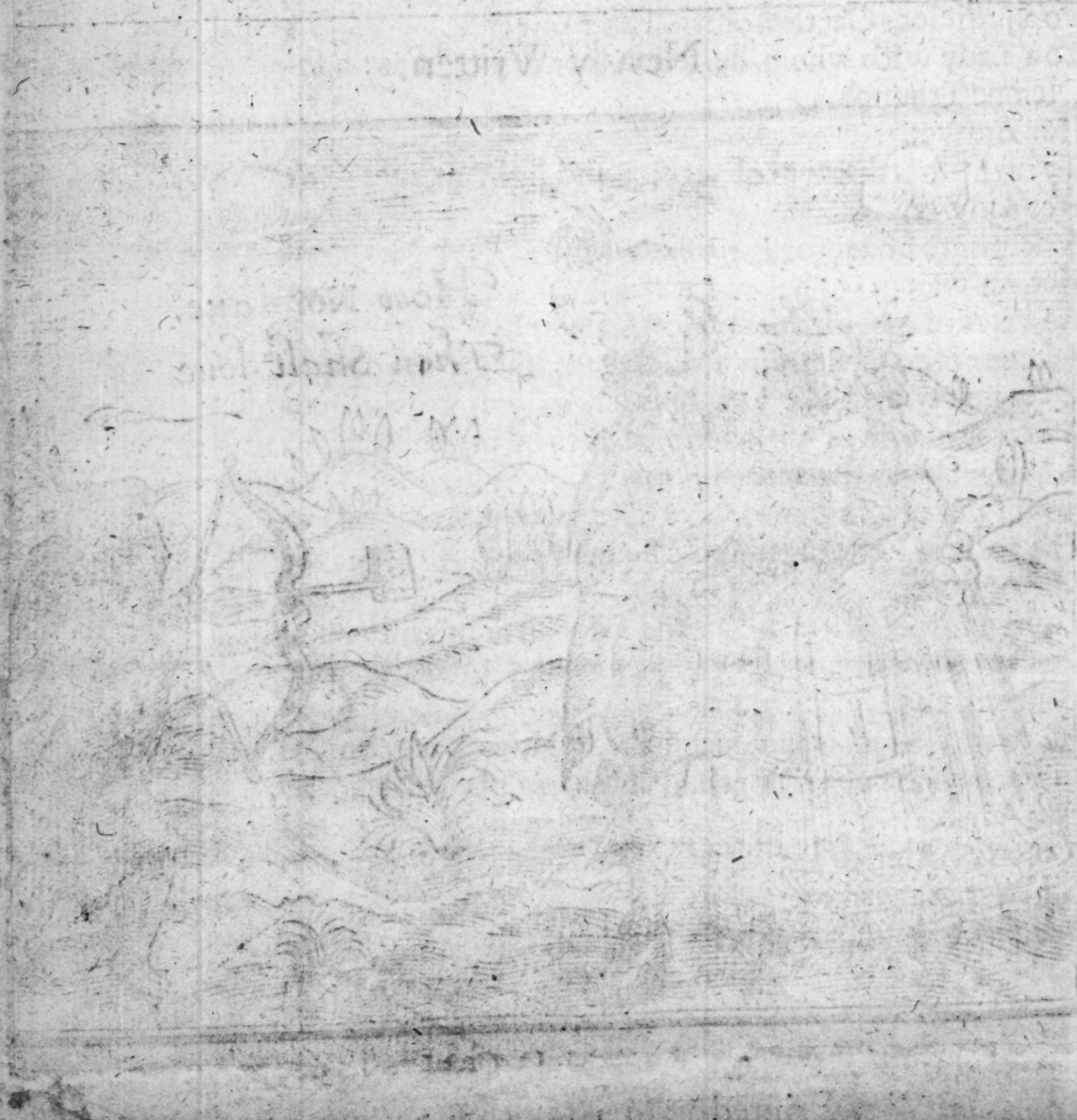


LONDON.

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C. V. P. I. D. S.  
M. E. S. S. E. N. G. E. R.

Among the friends of the cause of the  
colored people in this country  
there is a large number of persons who  
are not only well-meaning but also  
well-informed.






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# CVPIDSMESSENGER,

DELIVERING SVNDRY

excellent Letters.

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A Letter inviting his friend to write to him.



**T**hough the want of your sweet society (my worthy friend) doe occasion in mee all griefe, yet it lyes in you even by the often mission of your desired Letters, to mitigate that sorrow: And since the distance of place doth deny vs our accustomed conference & ozall communicati- on, let the passage and entercourse of our Letters supply that defect. Now our tongues cannot be heard, let vs be frequent in our writing, and let not the change of places alter our minds. Wherefoze that you might not iudge me neglectfull of our forepassed amity. oz oblivions of our old friendship, I haue tooke boldnesse to vish you with this Letter, and desire you to be no niggard in this kinde of friendly remembrance. I wish to you all prosperous fortunes as to my selfe, and continue my loue to you with all sincerisy. But lest the prolixitie of my Letter grow to the length of an Oracion, I set bounds to my writing, and remaine,

London

May the 20. 1633.

Yours in boundlesse affection,

C.D.

# Cupids Messenger.

The Answer.

A Letter excusatory for not writing.

**I** Am afraid (indictious and kinde sir) that it is with me  
as it is with that vnfortunate Pylot who falls into the  
Gulfe of Scylla, while he indeauors to auoid the danger of  
Charybdis.

*Incidit in Scyllam cupiens vitare Charybdim.*

I confesse I haue receiued Letters from you, and see-  
king by not answering all this while to conceale the rude-  
nesse of my vnpolished pen from the deepe discerning eye  
of your iudgment, I doubt whether I haue not made ship-  
wack of your good opiniõ, who haply imputes my silence  
vnto my negligence of your loue, or to my obliuion of your  
passed kindnesse: But I beseech you (kindest sir) to haue  
thus much confidence in my disposition, that no confused  
chaos of cogitations, no fulnes of employmēt, shall banish  
your remembrance out of my thoughts: though I bee ne-  
uer so busie I make answ. to those I little regard, I dare  
scarce write to you (I am possessed with such a due reue-  
rence of your worthinesse) when I am most at leisure.  
Yet finding in my selfe how farre greater a crime it is to  
neglect duty, then to lay open my imperfection to a well  
wishing friend, I haue chosen the later to make tender of  
the former: wishing that as you equalize graue Nestor in  
wisedome, so you might parallell him in the longaeuity of  
a happy life, I humbly surcease:

At your command,

Newcastle,

June 2. 1633.

E.K.



# Cupids Messenger.

3

A Letter to a friend vpon the death of his wife.

**T**he acquaintance I had with your vertuous wife (honest friend) makes me fee the sense of her losse, for he that can be insensible of the losse of a good woman, is an alien to nature, and a rebell to all morall vertue, I may truly say she was praise-worthy for her many good parts, but they were but good provisions for the world to come.

Giue me leave to aske you why you mourne, I meane not why you mourne outwardly, which is an old custome and a matter of formality, but why you doe mourne inwardly, which is the true sorrow: you will say (I say) for the losse of a companion. Indeed you doe well, for as a man was solitary befoze God gaue him one, so should he be after God takes her away: but there is a meane in all things. To be hard hearted is beast like, to be tender is effeminate, to be sensible is manly. As for you, you cannot offer a more acceptable sacrifice to the dead, then by turning the lone you bare her, into care of her children, to which I know you by nature so well inclined, that I need not to instruct, but onely remember you: but since wise men in sudden accidents and in cases concerning themselves are sometimes to seeke, I am bold to advise you now, though henceforth I would be glad to be advised by you: resting,

Your servant,

Arthingworth,  
Iuly 7. 1633.

I.M.



A comfortable Letter vpon the losse of a  
Husband.

Madam:

**T**hough none knowes the balne of your losse, noz feelen  
the want so deeply as your selfe, yet I may take vpon  
me more feeling then another man, being for the loue I  
beare you more sensible of your misfortune and affliction: I  
my selfe haue contributed many teares, and I confesse  
there is great allowance of griefe for good wiues for the  
fatall departure of worthy husbands, but you were better  
forget the dead then the liuing, (your daughters I meane)  
to whom (I am opinionated) you would not wish so sad an  
increase as your death would bring them, which, by this  
your course of macerating sorrow is too much hastned. **D**  
let not your vertue of patience dye before you, but so mag-  
nanimously behaue your selfe in your troubles, that your  
acquaintance may finde more cause to commend you, then  
to aduise you. Madam I beseech you hold me to be

Your honours friend,

Arthingworth.  
July 29. 1633.

W.M.



# Cupids Messenger.

3

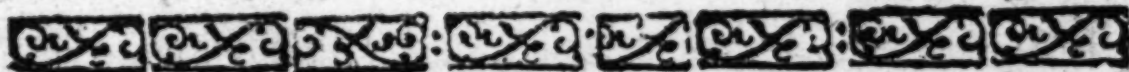
A Letter of grieve for his friends absence.

**O**f such comfortable use is the familiarity of a sweet companion, that those houres of our life seeme most happie which are passed away in the societie of a friend: If wee take a iourney, his companie is in stead of Coach, theres not a thought, nor a word, of the tediousnesse of the way: If we abide at home, wee imagine that the fithe of Time too speedily sweeps away the houres. But on the contrarie, needes must his life be melancholike, that hath no friend to sweeten the slow transcurtion of Time. I wish my owne experience were not too true prooofe hereof, for since your absence, sweetest friend, melancholy hath bene my concomitant, and your remembrance my greatest comfort. And as the Turtle pines away after the losse of his mate, so since your departure my bosome hath admitted no consolation. I request you by that interest which I haue in your loue, since in person I cannot: that I may see you in a Letter. Silence betwene absent friends incurres the censure of an inofficious and inuill disposition. But I know you will vindicate your selfe from a staine of so abhorrent a nature. I rest,

Farndon.  
Aug. 1633.

Yours vnremouably,

I. C.



A Letter for the entreaty of good wil, To a  
younge Gentlewoman.

**T**he long & considerate regarde by which in deep contemplation I haue eyed your most rare and singular vertues, loyned with so admirable beauty, & much  
pleasing

sing condition, grafted in your person, hath moued me, good  
 mistress E B. among a number whom I know, entirely to  
 fauour you, earnestly to loue you, and therewith to offer  
 my selfe vnto you. Now howbeit I may happily seme in  
 some eyes, the least in worthinesse of a number that daily  
 frequent you, yet may you vouchsafe in your owne pinate  
 to reckon me with the greatest in willingnesse. Wherein,  
 if a settled and immoueable affection towards you, if ser-  
 uent and assured loue, grounded vpon the vnderstable stay  
 and prop of your vertues, if continuall, nay rather inexter-  
 minable vowes, in all perpetuall addicted vnto your ser-  
 vices, if neuer ceasing and tormenting grieffe vncertainely  
 carried by a hazardous expectatiō, closed in the circle of your  
 gracious conceit, whether to bring vnto the eares of my  
 soule a sweet murmur of life, or seuerer sentence of a present  
 death, may ought at all pzeuaile, either to moue, entreate,  
 sue, sollicite, or perswade you, I then am the man, who  
 thining in my inward thoughts the dignities of so worthy  
 a creature, and prising in deepest waight (though not to the  
 uttermost value) the estimate of so incomparable a beauty.  
 haue resolved liuing to honoz you, and dying neuer to serue  
 other but you, from whose delicate looks expecting no worse  
 acceptance, then may seme answerable to so diuine an ex-  
 cellency: I remaine,

January 20.  
 1633.

Your most passionate, loyall,  
 and perpetually  
 deuoted,

F.R.

Her



# Cupids Messenger.

7

Her Answer.

**T**hat men have skill, and are by sundry commendable parts enabled to set forth their meanings, there needeth no other testimony then your present writing, your eloquence is far beyond the reach of my poore wit, and the multiplicitie of your praises fitter for a poeticall goddesse, then to the erection of any such deesse. For my part I shall hold them as the fancies & toys of men, issuing from the weakest of their humors, and how far my selfe can deserve, none better then my selfe can conceiue. Being one of so good sort, as you are, I could doe no lesse then write againe vnto you, the rather to satisfie the importunity of your messenger, wishing such a one to your lot, as might paragonize those excellencies you writ of, and answer every way to the substance of all those inestimable praises, So hoping your loue and your writing, (as I take it) be best inted together.

Yours as farre as modesty  
will, to answer your  
courtesies.

January 24. 1633.

E.B.

B 2

Another

## Cupids Messenger

Another Letter to his Mistresse,  
desiring her loue.

**G**ood mistris I P. I am bold, though a stranger, to make these lines messengers at this present of my good meaning towards you; wherein I goe not about by pretence of a most en'tire & hearty good will, which I professe to bear you, to make present surmise thereupon that on so bare an affection you should immediately credit me, I prize your worthines at a far greater value, and weigh your good allowance so much, as I onely desire by your favorable liking I may intreate to haue excesse vnto you, not doubting but by being in your presence, I shall so sufficiently by apparent proosse maintaine the efficacie of that I now protest, and giue you so good occasion to deeme well of mee as you shall haue no reason to repent you, that vpon so honest and louing a request you haue condescended to my entreaty: whose health and prosperitie tending as mine owne, I send you with my Letter a token of that great affection I beare you, which I pray you most heartily to accept of, and weare for me. And ever so doe continue,

Yours, if so you please to  
accept of me.

R M.

Her Answer.

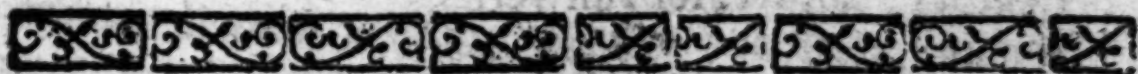
**S**ir, your message is to me as strange as your selfe, who haue vnto me a stranger, and what your good meaning vnto me is, I know not; for giuing of credit vnto your affection, as you seeme not to challenge it, so was I neuer hitherto of my selfe so hasty to doe it, hauing oftentimes haue taught, that of fairest speeches ensue the foulest actions:



tions: I cannot condēne your purpose, because I intend the best of your dealings, and howbeit I am in no pointe so restrained, but that in all reasonable sort that may be, any acceſſe may be granted, so when you shall by farther notice sufficiently make apparent that with modesty I may doe it, I shall be willing so far forth as my peares and present being may minister occasiō, in any thankfull requitall that may be, to yeld my selfe vnto you. Till which time I returne your token againe, and my hearty thanks vnto you by this bearer.

Your friend as one vnacquainted  
hitherto may be.

I.P.



To a beaution's Lady vpon a  
long affection.

Fairest of Ladies.

**H**ow vnpossible it is to keepe heate from fire, being the very nature of the element, I referre to your best iudgment, and how neare a spirit of that nature, is the loue of the heart kindled by the eye of beantie, I leaue to your kindnesse to consider: since then such is the force of true loue, as cannot be so smothered vp in silence, but that it must burst out into words and actions, either to gaine comfort, or to suffer death, pardon (fairest of beauties) that Patient that in anguish seeks ease, & denie not your help in the excellency of the cure: your beauty hath wounded me, your excellent feature, your comely gesture, your sweet behaviour, haue all concurred to make me vnhappie, vnlesse your hand helpe me, and though the hurt be moze felt then seene, yet is it not deadly, if you be kinde: loath I am to be a begger without desert, and yet loue will stoop a high spirit,

## Cupids Messenger.

rit, which, by the bond of due honour hath swozne me your true servant : in which Title, vnder heauen, shall bee my hearts greatest honoz : and in the honoz of whose fauour, shall be the height of my worlds happinesse: in hope whereof, praying to the highest Power in the heauens to blesse you with all felicity on earth, I rest:

Yours deuoted, and not  
to be remoued,

P.E.

## Her Answer.

**S**ir, how easie it is to quench a fire in his first kindling, Serperience can deliuer : in the diuersitie of heats loue being not the least that is like to do much hurt, I wish you to take order with your wits, lest it bring your braine to an ill temper: kindnesse without care may breed care without comfort. And therefore in placing of affection, bee not too far from discretion, lest the perswasion of selfe will bee an abuse of a better sense. If I had skill in Physicke, I would prescribe you helpe for your disease, but being a simple woman, you must haue patience with my plainnesse, who not knowing how to doe you good, and unwilling to wish you hurt, leauing you to a better Paradise then in the torment of an idle passion, I rest in what I may,

Yours as kindly as  
I find cause.

A.N.

To



# Cupids Messenger.

11

To a iudicious Gentlewoman:

Deare friend:

**T**he forcible effect and conquest which your beauty hath wrought in my heart, constrained me in your kindness to place the hope of my fortune: beseeching you so to equall your outward excellence with an inward perfection, that faith may not haue feare of fauour, where humilitie shall guide the course of affection, I should esteeme of my selfe the most vnhappie, if I should gine your eares any distast by my suit, but if it light within the line of your liking, it shall begin the garden of my paradise: so vnder heauen seeking no other fear, then the guide of your grace to lead my heart to the toy of my life: I rest, neuer to rest till I euer rest,

From Madrid,

Yours all, or mine owne  
nothing at all.

E. C.

Heranswer.

**I** Am soze to thinke that a shadow of dust should haue that force (in conceit) to rob reason of his contents: for beauty is but a shadow, which if your eye hath found in my face, let it goe no further, lest it doe wrong to my will in hurting your heart: my inside I hope is farre from disgracing any good in my outside, and both altogether vnhappie, if they haue bene any occasion of euill: but lest I may seme discontent either at the matter or maner of your writing, I discharge you of the burthen of that feare, by the kind acceptance of your affection, which though I cannot answer as I would, yet, as in good reason I may, I will thinke & consider of, which if it fall out to your liking, be not vnfaitfull in your loue, in hope whereof I rest,

Yours wholly, if at all, A. B.

To

## Cupids Messenger.

To a Lady, with whom hee fell in love, seeing her  
at a solemne Triumph.

**W**hen I saw you (excellent Lady) viewing the  
Triumphs, looking upon your eyes, me thought  
Heaven opened to discover a greater glory, and Angels  
telling there tooke from my iudgement all things else  
done out of that blessed compasse, but mine amazement  
became my death, and my death must be your Triumph,  
for how euer the conflict appeared, your glaunces which  
were the wounding weapons, stricke through my weake  
sight, and slew my heart, though armed in the strongest  
fort of my bosome; I am not so happie as to bee a prisoner  
(for there were hope) but so infortunate to die in despaire,  
that to haue the monument of my remembrance erected in  
the Temple of your pittie, is the utmost ayne my blisse  
looks to; the cruelty of faire ones hath pronounc't my iudg-  
ment, and saith, it is impossible to affect where they haue  
not seene: Oh see mee in this sorrowfull paper. (you fairest  
of adored beauties) and let that sight moue affection, affec-  
tion knowledge, knowledge pittie, and pittie that work of  
the highest, which is onely to doe miracles, so shall crueltie  
giue himselve the lie, proue you a goddess, and make mee  
(the happiest of men) a trumpet of your renowne and glo-  
rie, My loue is like your goodnesse without parallell, My  
faith shal goe beyond that loue, and my seruice crowne both  
with an infinite merit. This is my sacrifice, which if you  
accept, (excellentest of faire beauties, and innobled with  
all rich perfections) I line, if otherwise, my toy is, I perish  
by so excellent a creature,

From Douer

Prepared to suffer.

June 9. 1633.

I. S.

Her



Her Answer.

**S**ir, be that of a light blow with the eye, makes a deadly wound at his heart, is either too unworthily faint, or much too superstitious in the signes and planets; for mine owne part, my knowledge assures me I am free from any such malignant influence: I confesse a weake appetite unguarded with iudgement may oft stumble and receive knockes, nay sometimes fall to utter ruine, and to giue to that weaknesse the gouernment of my fortune, were to rob my selfe of all good mens pitties. In my worst mischances, the ill I cause not, reason cannot blame me, if I cure not, since what is without me nothing appertaines vnto me: but you will make my beauty guilty: poore nothing, how pittifully art thou slandered: which being a mere Chymera of imagination, hath not any thing in thee, but the strength of folly, and mans fancy, it is not a substance, for then it might be felt, let loose or restrained, it hath no certaine shape, for then all men would like one figure, nor hath it any abiding, for the it would euer be found in its owne mansion: it is not compounded of perfect colours, for then no man would deate of mixt deformities, nor doth it subsist of real vertues, for then no man would wed with the vicious: to conclude, it is nothing hath hurt you, and that nothing I send to cure your rashnesse, shall not breed my repentance: your loue is too infinite, your faith too worthy, and your seruice too rich: a meaner proportion will guard safest a meane fortune, and so wishing your great sacrifice to a greater belite, I rest,

Your best Counsellor

Canterbury.

A. N.

To

To his Mistris that was of wanton and of  
light cariage.

**B**Ecause my bow of loue (my sometimes dearely beloved  
mistris) hath made me your friend, therefore the care  
of your honour shall make me your counsellor; whether it  
come seasonably or no, examine your heart, that it comes  
freely and with a wholesome intent, truth be my witnesse.  
It is told me (mistris) that your actions are publikely no-  
ted for their contumelious leuitie, and your wanton light-  
nesse is so marked by your beholders, that contempt is be-  
come your onely companion: your apparell is like your  
minde, vnconstant and vncomely, and draws rather ad-  
miracion then reuerence; toys are your studies, and vani-  
ties your practise, so that making your selfe a slave to plea-  
sure, you haue forgotten the violence of mis-fortune. If this  
bee true (my dearely beloved mistris) then in this I must  
perish, since living in you, your least fall wounds both mee  
and mine honour: I know you are faire and young, but if  
you cloath them here with vices, what will you weare in  
the grave, but infamie? life runs without set, mis-fortune  
strikes without an alarme, and the glozie of vanitie breaks  
like a bubble, and leaues nothing behind but the print of  
disgraces. it is too much to be euill once, for the euill is ne-  
uer forgotten, and it is too little not to be euer good, since  
the smallest blot dashes all out of remembrance. would I  
could as easily excuse you, as fame is apt to accuse you: par-  
don me if I be too bold in writing, it is urged by a too much  
boldnesse in action, the one made good, the other shall bee  
gracious beyond expresseion; till then giue my pen leaue to  
keepe my heart from breaking

Farndon.  
Apr. 1633.

Your griued friend,

AZ.

Her



Her Answer.

**A** Zeale that is kindled (my best seruant) with the false fire of mens reports is rather held a superstition then an honest deuotion; for it both wrongs truth, and wounds an innocent reputation: and those light belauers, which build faith on such weake grounds, deserue nothing but ignominie and contempt: if now you accuse my life in your absence, where was your iudgment when I walkt in your presence? Be not so false to the worth of your owne truth to say you could not see that which all the world hath discovered, or if you did, to be so blinde to affect a thing vnworthy; but it may be, absence hath begottē new thoughts, those thoughts new affection, and that affection must needs finde a new quarrell with old friendship: if it be so, your owne course lead you, I freely confesse I am not such a begger that can weare rage, such a miser that can eate roots, nor so subtle to speake like a Iugler, with a reed in my mouth, Truth I serue, freedom I loue, and plainnesse is my conditiō. If these haue taste you cannot relish, you must in some other soyle seeke new comforts, for mine owne part I will be no bondslauē to opinion, till I know it constant, nor no seruant of the time, till it be vncorrupt, and more honest. As for my life had it for every feather a wing, and my fortune double so many hazards, yet will I bring the one to my graue with honour, and make the other ashamed with my sufferance. I rest,

Maidston:

Your iniuried mistris.

May. 7.

D.P.

A desperate Louer to his *quondam* Mistris.

**I** shall be vertue in you (fairest) to receiue my despaires though you returne no comforts, and if in the reading you bouchsafe a sigh to my remembrance, it is a dirge that shall make me for ever sleepe in quiet, despair long since gaue me iudgement, and obedience onely shall make my death patient: It is necessary I die for you, since fate denies me to liue with you, for my selfe is such an interposition betwixt you and your glory, that my griefes would keepe much of your Sunne eclipsed: I know my wants, and that there is nothing either in my life or fortune to be, serue you, onely an infinite desire, which but by death can neuer be lessened, then since all things suit with my despaires, be all delates (with your loue) ever farre from me, and let the world onely remember this in my Epitaph, that it was not my folly, But your will, not my despair, but truth in obedience: But O this is that I should doe, not speake: and the musicke is moze vsfit for your eare, then your loue for my heart: pardon my tell-tale sorrow, it rather speakes things fit to be done, then done, and will sooner craue the gloze in wish then action, and yet the poison of disdaine is so violent, I know it will wast me, and wast me it shall, for my comforts are already consumed: and in that consumption let all things but my memorie turne to its first Chaos: And so liue as happie as I vnfortunate:

Onely in remembrance.

Northampton.  
Septemb. 6.

F.L.



Her Answer.

**H**ow much I stand divided with the unreasonable-  
 ness of your affection, my distracted writing may witness;  
 wherein I can observe no order, because nothing in your  
 desires holds good proportion, you bid me love, and will not  
 heare when destiny denies it, and you seeke that rule from  
 me, which is quite taken out of my knowledge; (deare Sir)  
 awaken by your first wisdome, and tye your actions on  
 providence, then shall you see I have lesse power to draw  
 on mine, then you to withhold your affectiō, wil you make  
 beauty such a slave, that it must obey every gaze, or the  
 pooze owner so unfortunate, that she must be servile to the  
 desire of any wilfull longing, then so, how much safer were  
 it to be foule and fortunate? But you will dye, woes me  
 that folly should make you so impudent, to boast you dare  
 doe a sinne so damnable? but I know you will dye, but as  
 actors dye, in one scene and revive in the next, to make it  
 more glorious, thus to die I allow you, and to such I will  
 give a smile for pittie: to any other a charitable teare, so  
 thinke that any Gentleman should become a traitor to  
 Nature. Lastly, let me win you by the love you boast of,  
 never henceforth to sollicite me, for as no reliefe can come  
 from such vaine labour, so nothing but greate disdaine will  
 grow from my veration: So hoping you will make that  
 hope desperate, which is without all hope of vertue, I rest,

Your chaste friend.

Rowel. March. 7.

P.C.

A Letter of true kindnesse.

**I**f Dame Nature had bene pleased to haue made my body some transparent, your eyes should see the secrets of my heart, which if it haue any happinesse in the world, it is in the hope of your fauour: but amazed with the admiration of your worth, I know not what to say of your worthinesse, but onely this, that finding the due of your desert exceeding my capacite in commendation, I will leaue the excellency thereof to more honourable intution, and thinke Fortune enough fauourable, if she prefer my seruice to your commandement: presents I haue none worthy the sending, but the heart of my loue at your emploiment, which being nothing more then what you will, I rest, euer one and the same.

Your seruant.

W.W.

Her Answer.

**I**f your speeches be led by your thoughts, it is needlesse to desire a transparency in your bosome, for when as the heart and the tongue agree together, then mens protestations are followed with reall performance: words of admiration trouble discretion, in construction, and eloquence in loue hath not the best commendation, inuentions are ready where fancy is studious: but where wit is vertuous, there is will gracious: your present most worthy of all acceptance, cannot be better required then thankfully remembered, and if conceits meet in a mutuall content, what comfort may follow, I leaue to the heauens fauour, and so I rest,

Your friend.

A.W.



A Letter of counsell from a discret mother to  
her daughter newly married.

**M**y good daughter, thou art now going into the world,  
and must leave to be a child, and learne to be a mo-  
ther, and looke to a familie, rather then to the entertaine-  
ment of a friend, and yet both necessarie, in their kinds:  
finde the disposition of thy husband, and in any wise moue  
not his impatience, let thy kindnesse bind his loue, thy  
vertue his comfort, thy huswiserie his commendations:  
auoid tatling gossips, yet be kinde to thy neighbours, and  
no stranger to thy kindred: be gentle to thy seruants, and  
not ouer familiar: haue an eye to thy doore, and a locke to  
thy chest: keepe a bit for a begger, and a bone for a dog:  
cherish the Bee that brings home honie, and make much of  
the Cocke that makes much of his Chickens, take heed  
abroade of the Kite, and within of the Rat: pray to god for  
his blessings on all thy proceedings, and haue a religious  
care of thy modest government, and rather for charitie  
then praise, giue reliefe vnto the poore; if at any time thou  
hast need of any good I can do thee, be assured whilst thou  
hast a mother, thou hast a friend: so hoping in thy kindnes.  
thou wilt take care of my counsell, beseeching God to blesse  
thee, that I may euer haue ioy of thee, with my hearts loue,  
to his tuition I leaue thee.

Thy most louing mother.

R.S.

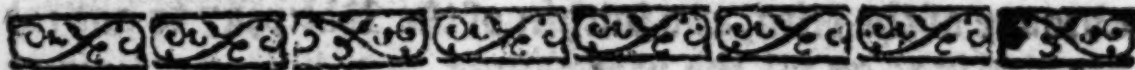
Her answer.

**M**y good Mother, I haue passed the yeares of a child  
and know the care of a mother, & therefore for your  
kind aduise for my carriage I thank you, and what benefit  
I

I will make of your lessons, you shall finde in the fruit of my obseruation, I am but newly come into the world, and God knowes when I shall goe out of it, and am yet scarce warne in my house, and therefore hardly know yet how to goe through it, for my husbands humour, if he alter not his nature, I doe not doubt but wee shall liue as Doves, whilerare & kindnesse shall continue content: my seruants shall finde me both a mistris and a friend, my neighbours no stranger, & idle gossips no companion. Thus in the duty of loue, with thanks for your motherly care, in prayer to the Almighty to blesse me with his grace, and to liue no longer then in his loue and yours: I take my leaue, for this time, but rest during life,

Your most louing daughter.

P.E.



A Letter in case of wrong supposed to  
be committed.

**S**ir, your letters moze troublesome to my conceit, then flauouring (as I am credibly led to thinke) of that your wanted most noble disposition vnto me, I haue receiued. With what supposition and vnaccustomed grieve I haue retained them, I referre to any one (guiltlesse accused and suspended from so high fauours, as formerly by your bonnetie to me haue bene performed) simply to bee coniectured. Long was it ere I could satisfie my selfe by any accesse that might be, to present my selfe or these humbled Letters vnto you, yet neuerthelesse weighing how far different, those new occurrents were from those your ancient fauours, I furnished with my selfe, that the instigation proceeded solely from others, hardly perchance bearing those graces wherein



wherein I stood with you, and becoming thereupon my bitter enemies, the stricter deathe whereof stood upon me wholly to overthrow or impugne. For which having no other or better meanes at this time then these submissive lines, I purpose them unto you as sollicitors of your former liking, confessing if in any waies I have erred unto you, as I will not utterly seclude my selfe from every error, it was but as a young man rather by ignorance then of malice any way to be intended: as touching any other obiecti- on, let me but craue pardon to haue access vnto your pre- sence, and then iudge as you finde me: two waies are onely left, my accusers to my face, or mine owne simplicitie to cleare me. This is all I require, and so much I hope you will not denie me: wherewith resting in due acknowledg- ment of that your former bounty, I humbly surcease, this 15. of December. 1633.

Yours to command.

T.G.



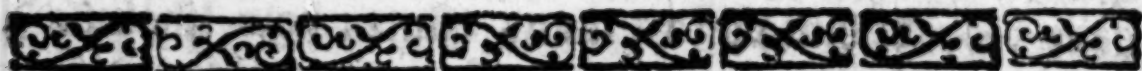
## A Letter from a seruant to his Master.

**S**ir, my humble dutie remembred vnto you, and to my good mistris. You may please to vnderstand that I haue dispatcht the businesse vnto Master C. for the monie you sent mee for, and haue given him an acquittance for the same, and according to your good remembrance vnto me, I haue bought for you twelue gallons of the best Sacke, and eightene gallons of Claret, and fiftene yards of fine Broad-cloth, and thirtie ells of fine Holland, all which I hope by Gods grace shall come vnto your hands: I haue sent you also here inclosed your Bill of parcels, and their severall prices.

I wrote formerly unto you for certaine commodities out of the Country, which I haue now receiued by the Carrier. Here is at this present small newes worth the writing vnto you: wherefore praying vnto Almighty God for the health and prosperitie of you and all yours, I humbly take my leaue, and rest,

Your faithfull and ready seru-  
uant to command,

J.P.



An answer of a Letter for courtesie  
and fauour receiued.

**M**y good friend M. C. how much I am bound vnto you for a multitude of fauours, and especially for that you haue made choise of me, as to write your kinde and friendly Letters in my behalfe, I can no other waies expresse, then to continue your affectionate poore friend, and will for ever acknowledge it, as of your great kindnesse beyond any merit of mine owne, and as by duty I am bound, no day shall passe me that I will not pray to God for your health and prosperitie, and the redoubling of your dayes: beseeching you to excuse me in that in person I cannot doe or performe what I desire, by reason at this time some hast extraordinary will not permit me. I therefore most humbly take my leaue of you, this 14. of May

Your affectionate poore  
friend,

P.C.

The



## The fathers Letter against the Sonne.

**T**he sight of your Letters & message received by your servant, haue (good Cousen) bred to me in perusing and hearkning vnto the same no small matter of disquiet: not that your Letters or messages for themselves are or haue been at any time ill welcome to my hands, but in respect of him for whom they come, so filled haue I bene long since with the euills by him committed. I am nothing ignorant that of mere loue and good will you framed your speech vnto me in the behalfe of my vngratulations Sonne, I haue brought him vp to a mans estate: how likewise I sought both with maintenance & place of credit to continue him as a Gentleman. I placed him with a right godly and worshipfull Knight Sir T. H. who for my sake loued him, and I know tooke paines to reforme him. Complaints were infinite against him. This man could not be quiet for him, that mans seruants he misblessed: this party hee deceived, and others highly wronged. Since which, (too much to be reanealed) how stubboznlly in mine owne house, how in iuriously amongst my owne people hath he behaued himselfe. And because it was against Christmas, and I would not dismiss him unfurnished, I gaue him for himselfe and his man, a couple of good Geldings, and twentie pound in his purse: he was no sooner gone twentie miles, but spent his money at Cards and Dice, pawned his apparell, sold his Geldings, and in the end comming to one of my Tenants to borrow money, which he denied to lend him. he fell vpon him and beat him. Thus (louing Cousen) you see in part his ill led life, and may thereby conceiue my grieffe: sending in the meane time my commendations and earnest thanks for your care of my well being, to you and your bedfellow. This 20. Aug. 1633.

The Answer.

I have receiued your letter (my kinde vncke) in answer to the last letter I sent, which was the businesse of your son. I am very sozry that a Gentleman of your grauity & knowledge in the worlde, and soz the good estimation that the country hath of you, that Master E. C. your sonne, should deale so vnkindly with you. I know your fatherly care of him from time to time, and how diligent, and not sparing any cost in bzinging him vp, & to place him with a Gentleman of the best ranke in all the country it was nobly done, yet withall you might (if so you please) doe well to consider he is your owne sonne, and if you looke into your owne youth, you shall finde these were your youthfull straines, and so much the more to be bozne withall, and time and age will tame all these things in an ingentious and witty Gentleman. I desire you soz my sake retaine him kindly in to your fauour this once more soz he hath (vpon the reputation of a Gentleman) promised neuer to doe the like enormities, but to liue as a most dutifull and louing sonne: and soz the same I dare passe my credit. I pray you entertaine him respectiue, and I will ener remaine;

Your louing kinsman,

T. F.

To



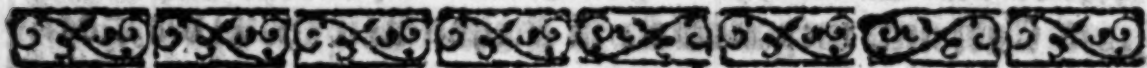
To his mistress (*quondam*) hauing spent all his  
meanes vpon her in prosperitie, he  
being imprisoned she  
forsakes him.

**I**f my paper were made of the skins of croking Toades,  
or speckled Adders, my inke of the blood of Scorpions,  
my pen pluckt from the Screech-owles wings, they were  
but fit instruments to write vnto thee, that art more bene-  
uous, more poisonous, more ominous, then the worst of  
these: for doe but descend into the depth of thy guilty con-  
science, and see with how many bowes, promises, and deepe  
protestations, nay million of oathes hast thou sworn thy  
fidelity to mee, which one day will witnesse against  
thee. If I should speake with the voice of Thunder, or  
as loud as the noise of the Summers thunder, yet could I  
not proclaime vnto the world thy infinite basenesses, I  
being so firme and constant vnto thee when I swomme in  
the golden floods of prosperitie, then wast thou (as often  
thou didst protest) firme and constant vnto me. But when  
the water began to ebbe, and my ship run on ground, then  
(like thy selfe) thou forsookest me. At first thy loue was as  
hot to me, as an Italian to a wench of fiftene, but when  
my gold was spent and consumed, then thy loue grew as  
cold to me, as a fishmongers fingers are in a great frost.  
Doe not thinke I write this vnto thee to be a meanes to  
helpe me in this my great distresse and imprisonment: for  
know thou though all my friends haue forsaken mee, nay  
though death, griefe, affliction, and all the miseries that  
possibly can befall a miserable man in this wretched world  
while he liueth here, and all these griefes do euerie minute  
torment me, yet I had rather fall by their force. then rise  
by thy assistance: so hatefull, so grievous, so loathsome, so  
tedious, and so incomparably abominable is thy very name  
vnto me.

Leprosie compared to thee, is all health: and all manner of infection but a flea-biting; and all manner of diseases, though they were fetcht from twentie Hospitals, were but like the fit of an Ague: for thou art all Leprosie, all diseases, for neither thy bodie nor thy soule are free; thy body, from the disease of shame and disgrace of the world; nor thy soule free from the sicknesse of Sinne. God amend and pardon thee.

Once thy friend,

I.P.



To his friend lying long sicke.

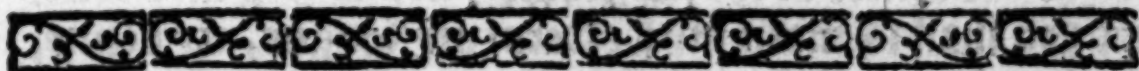
**M**y worthy friend Master Prince: though the distance of place be such, that we cannot heare one another, you in the center of the kingdome (London) I at Yorke, yet you shall see me in my Letters: my tongue, my penne, my heart, are all your servants. You plainly perceiue a long lingring sicknesse will draw you to a long desired rest, where long your minde hath had his residence. You now perceiue, fame is but a smoake, metalls but dross, pleasure but a pill in sugar. All these earthly delights if they were sound, how short they are, flatering every day: they are but as a good day betwixt two Agues, or like Sodom's Apples, faire red outsid'es, being handled are blacke dust. I admire the faith of Moses, but presupposing his faith, I wonder not at his choise, that he preferred the affliction of Iraell to the pleasures of Egypt, and chose rather to eate the Lambe with sotre herbs, then all their flesh-pots. What God hath given you a vertuous Wife, dutifull Children, wealth in abundance, an honest esteeme and good repnte amongst your neighbours and the generall loue of your countrie



country where you live; are favours that looke for thanks. Who would desire to live, that knows his Saviour died? who can be a Christian and would not be like him? would you be happy & not die? indeed Nature knows not what she would have. Our friends of this world can neither abide us miserable in our stay, nor happy in our departure. What God hath given you on earth, is nothing to that he will give you in heaven: you are a stranger here: there at home. There Saints and Angells shall applaud you, there God himselfe will fill you with himselfe: have patience in all afflictions, and reade the troubles of Iob, and in that exercise your selfe both day and night, untill God shall either mende or end these your daies on earth. To which great God and mercifull Lord I commit you, praying for your eternall rest.

Remaining your friend.

I.M.



A Letter wherein is recommended to a Nobleman  
from his inferiour, the conditions and  
behaviour of a person.

**M**ay it please your Lordship this gentlemā the bearer  
hereof, with whom a long time I have bene acquaint-  
ed, and of his qualities and good behaviour have sound  
and large experiment, having ben a good time a suter unto  
me, to move his preferment unto your Lordships service:  
I have now at last condescended unto, as well for that I  
know your Lordship to be now presently dis furnished of  
such a one, as also that there will hardly be preferred upon  
the sudden any one so meet as himselfe to supply that place.  
Wherby much by your pardon and allowance dare I as-  
sure

sure vnto you, that if it may please you in credit of my simple knowledge and opinion to imploy him, you shall finde that besides he is in parentage descended from such of whom I know your Lordship will very well account of. he is also learned, discret, sober, wise and moderate in all his actions, of great secreesse, assured trust, and well gouerned in all companies. Finally, a man so meet and to this present turne so apt and necessary as I cannot easily imagine how you may be serued better. Pleaseth your Lordship the rather, for the great good will I beare him, and humble duty I owe vnto you, to accept, imploy, and account of him; I nothing doubt but your Lordship hauing by such means giuen credit to my choise, shall finde him such, as for whose good seruice, you shall haue further occasion to thinke well of me for him, whereof nothing doubting I doe referre both him and my selfe, in all humblenes to your best and most fauourable opinion. From my house in Arthingworth, this 5 of June.

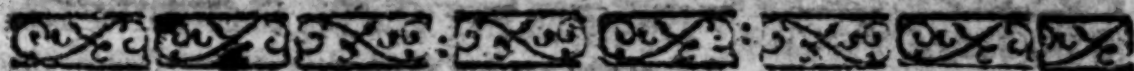
## The answer.

**A**fter my hearty commendations vnto you. Withence the receipt of your last letters and commendations of W.R. vnto my seruice, I haue had small occasion either to write or to send vnto you till this present: and for as much as vpon your certaine notice deliuered vnto me in fauour of his preferment, I held my selfe so well assured in all things of his behauiour, as I doubted not therevpon to receiue him into place of greatestt fidelity. I haue thought good hereby to let you vnderstand, what great pleasure I haue taken in his diligent attendance, assuring you, of many vnerpected qualities, which I haue proued to be in him, and that with so good affection, as that I intend not to omit any thing that may tend to his advancement. In beholding of him oftentimes, me thinkes he many wayes doth resemble his father, whose sound truth I doe suppose might haue beene  
 testified



certained with the best for his well deserving: this bearer shall informe you of two speciall causes concerning my affaires in the country, whom I do pray you to conferre with and to affoord him your trauel for his present dispatch, which I will not faile heartily to requite vnto you. For your care had of my wants, and diligent supply of such a one, I doe many times thanke you. And euen so I bid you heartily farewell.

From the Court this 5. of  
May, 1633.



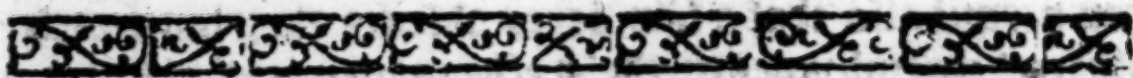
A merry Letter to his friend in London.

Heroicall spirit:

I haue receined your Epistle of alacritie, and remaine much indepted to your kinde heart for vouchsafing vs pooze country swaines so much of the labour of your pen to deceiue slow-footed time withall: I thankes vnto the Almighty I haue had my health indifferent well since my comming downe, onely the separation of my second selfe hath bene a continuall sicknesse vnto me: to remedy which I haue hitherto founde out no better way then to call for a cup of Rubicellar, to helpe to exhilarate and corroborate my fatigued spirits. The Ruricolars are verie barren of any neweltie, worthy the presenting to your curious understanding, but doe presume out of the bundle of your affection that you that liue at the wels head will be pleased to vouchsafe vs your pooze friends a report by your Letters, at least of such Exchange newes as passeth currant amongst you, which wee shall take as a speciall fauour from you, and study how to remunerate. We are at this present putting foot into the stirrop, and riding some dozen horse of vs to a maritime coast, where there will be provided for vs all the rarities

ties for as the Sea can afford, where I will not be unmindfull to remember all your healths in a full ocean. In the meane time commending my loue to my louing sister your wife, with your worthy selfe and all our friends, I wish you all true happinesse suitable to a bzane disposition, and will ever rest,

Your assured louing  
Brother.  
R.S.



A Letter gratulatorie.

Good Mr.P.

**I** am yet to learne the phrase and method how to write to so beneficent a friend as your selfe, to whom I stand obliged more by desert then I can answer with requitall, and more in affection then I am able to merit: a predicament it is into which I am easily and often (as it were) precipitated, & out of which to raise my selfe, fortune only hath disabled me, who if with her gifts she had supplied my wants and given me competent wealth to the freedom of my will, my honest heart should not be debtoꝝ to the hand of any, nor should my disability curbe the scope of my affection: but seeing wishes are but vaine, I pray you accept these my lines as tokens of the remuneratio of my thanks and the acknowledgement of the loue of

Your humble servant.

D.P.



A Letter to his silent friend.

**Y**ou are happily innocent (dearest friend) what paine I am in, and with what unrest I spend my irksome daies, through your parcimoniousnesse, and sparing of a little inke and paper: Is it not enough that I am deprived of your sight, but I must be also unsaluted by your Letters one of them alone both too waightly appresse me with sorrow, and overwhelme my heart with disquietnesse. As place hath wrought a separation betwene our bodies, will you permit also that a few daies absence shall burie each others remembrance in the Lethean waues of oblivion, oh be not so iniurious unto sacred friendship, which is the greatest ioy allotted unto mortall men in all the vniuerse: I haue got the start of you in writing, but I hope I shall not need to send you any more expostulatorie Letters for your slacknesse in this kind. For the sounde state of my bodie I am well, yet I cannot be said to be perfectly well, being (as I am) so sollicitous for your welfare, and so ignorant of your health, who are anima dimidium meum.

Farewell

Anima dimidium tuum

B.M.

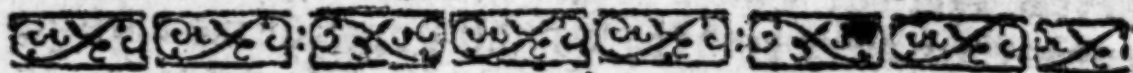
The Answer, excusing his not writing.

**L**et the multitude of my busineses and my want of bodily health, and debility plead my excuse with you for my remissenes in writing. The drift of these present lines is to apologize for that I writ to you no sooner, and to enquire of your health and welfare. Compare not, nor do not thinke my lone as little as my writing, for I protest vnfeignedly, that if I may stead you in any kind, or if my meanes can procure any thing to make a clearer manifestation of

my manifold loue, you shall assuredly see whensoever any occasion shall offer it selfe to you, to make triall what great interest you haue in me and my best affection, I cease, euer resting

Yours to my power.

W.W.



A Letter expostulatory for breach of promise

**I** had bene more honesty in you to haue giuen mee a speedy deniall, then not to perforce what you so constantly promised me, for then you had not iniured mee, because you had not owed me any thing. Promise is debt: for I yet hope you are none of the number of those men who thinke promises doe not binde them vnto performance: this is my beliefe of you yet, it is in your power to make mee hold or alter my opinion. I onely desire thus much of you, if you will not doe me that good turne, yet leaue doing me iniurie: feed me not with impotent words, but bid mee not trust any longer to vaine hopes. In brieft, you shall much oblige me by doing that kindnesse, by omission thereof you shall make me mafe at the lacke of your fidelity and at your carelesnesse to incurre the report and infamy of a dishonest man.

Your iniured friend.

H.G.



To his friend false to pouertie.

**I**f your wealth had bene the foundation of my loue, I should now cease to loue, because you are no longer rich, but



but should I now so erre, I should shew my selfe to haue bene vnto you in your prosperity not a friend, but (like vnto the rest, that haue dereliquished you in your poverty) a meere flatterer: we see how during the Summer time the Swallows flocke to our houses, we may obserue how Dice will be sure to get into the barne, that is replenished with coine, and while the pot hath any hony it is hard keeping the flies away: but rare is the friendship which lasts not in the probation time of aduersity. Besides that poore comfort of aduersity, pitie, I lend you the summe of twenty pounde, which so long make vse of, till Time, the mother of mutations, encrease your store with a proportion able to make repalment to

Your friend to his  
ability.

I.R.



A Letter of a Gentlewoman to a Gentleman with  
whom she fell in loue.

**I**f euer I could with my selfe vnbozne (most worthy Sir) for my well being taken from mee, I call truth and my sometimes modesty to witnesse, it is now: not that I haue found you, but that I am forced thus to seeke you. Call to minde (faire, and I hope vertuous Sir) some horrid and violent women, taken with the loue of their owne fathers, as was Mirah; or incestuously pursuing their neereſt brother, as was Biblis: so my affection will appeare more modest, and my suite more pardonable: I dearely loue you, (and in so saying me thinks the gods blush to heare me,) who in the strictest lawes of desire are most worthy to be loued, whose vertues might inflame a flame, and excel-

lentest qualities take the most retired: If I haue (as I know to well I haue) contrarie to the nature and custome of Virgins, ouer-shot my selfe in my violent passions, pardon her that had rather die then make it knowne, yet chuseth rather to make it knowne, then not enioy you so desired, and farre more woorthy to be desired. If you were acquainted what afflictious I suffer in my discovery, yet fearing all will not serue, you will, I hope, rather incline to pittie, then disdaine: little will the death of a silly mayden amaine the triumph of your beauty, and the overthrow of my credielesse benefit your vertue. Raise me from the one by your loue, & assure me from the other by your secrecie: whilest I will euer remaine a most constant votaresse to all your perfections, blessing the parents that left behind them such an issue.

Althorp. May 22.

Neuer lesse her owne.

R D.

His Answer.

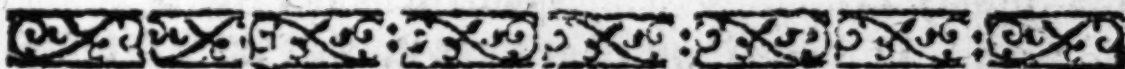
**H**ow happie may I account my selfe (sweetest of creatures, & beautifullest of women) that hauing bound my selfe in the search and pursuite of a iewel, haue it now offered & giuen into my hands, farre aboue my expectation; farre transcending my hopes; I accept it as louingly as you freely bestow it, and will account it no lesse deare and precious, then if much time and long labour had bene the purchase of it, esteeming it a blessing thowen vpon me, by the appointment of the highest, and, sutable to my happy desires. Nor shall I need to load my memozy with those horrid examples, to giue your loue a freer & welcomer passage into the very depth of my loue and choicest desires: to loue we were made, and by loue we are made: they onely are without being that haue not the heauenly tast and enioying



loving of it, I onely deny those excellencies which you lay to my vnguiltie charge, it was the reflection of your owne worth (strucken from me) which hath Narcissus like so enamoured you, it was your owne image shewne in my eyes, which hath thus captivated you: which since you like in so dim and dull a myrroꝛ. I will cherish, and make much of it only for your sake, that you may the perfectlier see your selfe, and the more loue me: for your loue, take all I am; for my secreesse, I will not breathe it to my selfe how I attaine this happynesse, but liuing and dying. rest the true honourer and admirer of your worth and vertue,

Yours more then his owne.

H. H.



A Letter from a Chapman in the Country to a  
Tradesman in London.

**M**<sup>y</sup> louing and kind friend M. G. you haue done mee much wrong in detaining the wares I writ for: I haue disappointed some Gentlemen in relying vpon you, whose custome hath much aduantaged me: my credit I hope will euer be aboue that value: and my dealing for much more yearly betwene vs might without other circumstances therein haue satisfied you: I must tell you plaine, in the country there are many good men, whose estates are knowne very sufficient, which cannot raise money vpon their credit in an instant: we want a common banke with vs which might furnish vs suddenly and thoroughly: Brokers trade not here, nor Usurers take their place, but in Summer for their recreation: thinks, (friend) me an honest man, and so you haue much cause to thinke: confident in which, though my estate were buttle, (as I  
thanke

thanke god) I know it is sure: you may be armed, I will neuer faile nor deceiue you. I rone not beyond my compasse, neither make a sure foundation out of other mens ruines, but content with a little, leauing a blessing to my childzen, and a good memoze amongst my neighbours. Let me heare from you concerning the cause of this breach, and a note of the reckoning betweene vs, which I will make euen, and rather rest honest then rich.

Your true friend as you  
shall vse me,

L.M.

The answer.

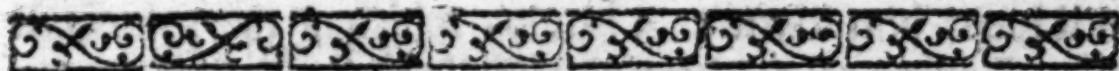
**M**aster M. truly it much greiues me you were so disappointed, and the negligence of my man went not away unpunished, by whose default the Carrier went without them: belieue me on my word, and I account my selfe happier in being a master of that, then in much riches, no feare of payment, nor least doubt of your estate was any hindzance to it: I haue well knowne you by others, & haue had so much experiece of you my selfe, that you shall sooner want occasiō for wares, then I confidence to trust you: your neighbours speake much good of you, and all men that know you giue you a faire report, which makes me happle both in your custome and friendship. If sinister occasions shall at any time happen (as while we are here they are incident vnto vs) I shall rather pittie your fortunes then call in question your faire dealings. And know we are all men accountable euer instant for all our possessions. The Carrier this weeke brings these commodities, and better and more vendible you neuer had of me; and I verily beliene the Gentlemen will thinke themselves happily repaid in the stay with the exceeding goodnes & lastingnes of the wares.



For your reckonings, at more leisure I will peruse & send them, in whose place receive my kind commendations, and entreaty for my mans carelesnesse, I bid you most heartily farewell.

Your friend as you know.

I.G.



A Letter of thankfulnes for kindnesse shewed  
to his Sonne.

**S**ir, the fauours you haue already done me, are of such effect and merit, that I shall neuer be at quiet untill I haue made some requitall of them. I am ashamed you should be thus continually troubled with a sonne of mine, whom I haue charged to obey you in al things as my selfe, and I pray you doe so much as haue a carefull hand ouer him, as if you were his father, or hee your onely childe: I kindly and heartily thanke you for the apparell you haue made him lately, which is decent, comely, and profitable, and the money you haue paid for him, you may accommodate him with the rest if you thinke it fitting: for my part I giue you all power and authoritie ouer him, seeing you are pleased to take the trouble vpon you. So wishing but to meet with some good occasion that may lie in my poore power, to acknowledge how much I am beholding vnto you, I for this time commit you to the protection of the Almighty. Resting

Your assured louing  
friend,

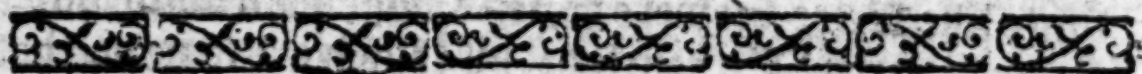
D.B.

## The Answer.

**M**aster B. I haue receiued your Letter cōcerning your son. Sir, for any fauour I can doe you, either in this or any other, I shall be right willing, knowing how much from time to time I and mine are bounden vnto you. And assure your selfe it shall be no trouble vnto mee to vse the best of my counsell and care ouer him. For his apparell, it will kēpe him warme, I know, which is the principall thing I ayme at, & I hope pleasing to him and his friends. The other money I shall deliuer him as I shall see good both for him selfe to vse, and the credit of you his father. Moreover (Sir) he is to me very dutifull and louing, by which he shall lose nothing in my care of his welfare, & he very well spends his time at Schoole, and to good purpose I hope; wherein I doubt not you shall haue great comfort. He be- haueth him selfe so well by his good demeanure to all, that he is generally beloued of al my neighbors. For my power and authoritie ouer him, I will imploy my selfe only for his good, and your fatherly care committed to me. And so with a thousand commendations I commit you to God.

Your friend,

I.D.



A Letter to his Mistris in the country that de-  
fired newes from the Citie.

**M**ost excellent mistris, your command (which is to me a law) binds me to obey you, and though the task be infinite hard to containe so great a beast in so little paper, yet for your satisfaction, I will delineate to life the



proportion of some of his members. It is newes you desire  
 & beleue me (faire one) since I came into the City, I haue  
 not seene or heard any thing old; euen from the Capitoll,  
 to the Cottage, all things are in their new garments, the  
 Court hath new fauourites, the City a new Senate, and  
 the common-wealth new officers: the first are as great as  
 good, the second are as rich as wise, and the third as a we-  
 full as iust. Men are new, for where they should loue they  
 feare, women are new, for where they should honoꝝ they  
 subdue, and childzen are new, for where they should reue-  
 rence they astonish, Customs and maners are new, for  
 the poore daily feed the rich, the rich cozen the great, and  
 the great make fooles of the good ones. The fashions  
 though they were neuer old, are now newer then euer,  
 for in man and woman there is not a point to chuse betwixt  
 the sexes, the one hath descended so much downeward, and  
 the other ascended so much upward, that met in one circle  
 they are both now trodded vp together without difference:  
 Apparell that was made to couer, is now made to discover  
 folly and lewdnesse, and they are finest that are nearest to  
 the naked anatomie: Discourse is new, for wise men talke  
 of their wealth, learned men of their deceit, and great men  
 of vanity, Old men like old Wolues boast of their preyes  
 past, middle age like Lions talke of that which is in their  
 powers, & childzen like dogs barke of the reuenges which  
 shall bee: our Citizens like Ases are proud of rich bur-  
 thens, and like Apes, ioy in pyde trapping, and our gal-  
 lants like Beere-brewers horses bragge how much drinke  
 they can carry. To conclude, all things are so new, that  
 euen vertue her selfe is despised in old garments, and hee  
 that kepeth any phrase of his forefathers, is but a rude  
 speaker, for to say Hic mulier, is now the purest and truest  
 Latine. Thus (my deare Distresse) you haue the newest  
 Newes of the season, which I write rather to keepe you in  
 your old way of vertue, then to lose your selfe in the folly  
 of imitation, I know your goodnesse, and how true a re-

warder it is of its owne merits, relie vpon it ener, it will make your end happy and my lifefortunate, that am the seruant of so great a perfection.

T.W.

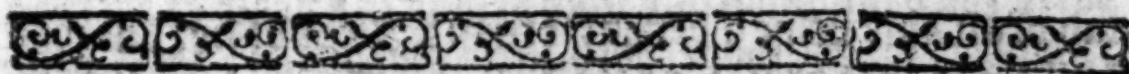
Her Answer.

**Y**ou haue sent me (worthy seruāt) my desire back with so great an interest, that I stand two wayes fearesfull how to receiue it, either to incurre the suspitiō of too grōdy an inquiry, or the enuy of a weake nature, that is pleased with detractiō: frō both which I am frē, in as much as my ayne is held within the leuell of modesty. I confesse, the parts you haue giuen mee may belong to a beast, or rather a Monster, for the shape hath little propoztion: yet I haue heard of excellent Painters which haue made curious pēces of perspectiue, that beheld with a liberall eye on the plaine Table, hath appeared ugly & most deformed, but the sight strained and drawne into a most senere & narrow compass, it hath bene beautifull, and in the glozie of the best perfection: such, I feare, was the picture from whom you tooke your copie, and looking vpon it the wrong way, you saw the lines, but not the beauty. I doe confesse, the world is old, yet not so old but I may continue to weare out many new garments. Age makes it subiect to sicknes & infirmity, and what better defence then warme and sound cloathing? Sicknesse bzings corruption, and ill sanours, what better pzenention then much shift and many new things? so that I conclude, these nouelties which you dislike are but to cure something in the world that is vnwholsome. Again I haue seene an Italian Comedy, consisting of a loue, a woman, a zany or foole, & a deuill, & to it I may fashion the world, for thats the stage, the people the actors, each degree haue their zany and their deuill: Now if the zany wil scale his masters apparell, and make betwē vice & vertue no differ



difference, blame not the discretion of the master, if it de-  
uise new fashions, till either the foolish & any be tyred, or the  
deuill for his pride fetch him away, and conclude the enter-  
lude. This (my best servant) you may apply at your plea-  
sure, for mine innocence hath taught me that charity, not  
to accuse any of that crime I would not my selfe be guilty:  
nor is my defence and argument to draw on your silence,  
but rather a motive to make you more liberall, in bestow-  
ing on me the rest of your collections: in which doubt not  
my constancy, since no inchantments can make mee forget  
to preserve my selfe ever worthy to be your Mistresse.

M.S.



A wooing and comfortable letter to a noble widow  
that had newly lost her husband.

**T**hough (my noble Widow) I am the last that send you  
comfort, yet was I the first that felt your anguish, and  
will be the readiest of all men to serue you in your trouble:  
you haue lost a dearly desired husband, & found an infinite  
way to grief, the one is the act of Nature, & cannot be pre-  
uented, the other is the worke of Nature, and by wisdom  
must be corrected: Remember (saie Widow) who is gone  
(a good man) to whom he is gone (to a good God) & from  
whom (from a wicked World, and worse people) and  
you shall finde more cause to praise heauē for his happines,  
then to murmur for your losse of comfort; a good man dies  
to liue, theres your ioy, an ill man liues to die, theres true  
anguish: the ioyes of mariage should be writ in Table-  
bookes, not vpon paper, that Widowes might blot and  
rubbe out the writing, for they ought not to remember the  
delights past, but to meditate on pleasures to come, not to  
marry for eternitie, but during the will of heauen, neither

haue you lost any thing, for hee was but a treasure lent you, and to grieue at the repayment were to wrong your goodnesse with ingratitude. *Belæue mæ Madame*, were your cure in my hands, as your griefe is at my heart, neither should your anguish hurt you nor the memory of your losse suruiue a moment, but it is in heauen and your wise-  
dome, couple them together by yeelding to prouidence, and you shall see your comforts flow vpon you in a new tyde, you haue reputed mæ your friend, and shaped your best actions by my counsels, you were neuer moze weakke then now because alone, nor did you euer stand in moze need, because many assaults are prepared against you: to keepe you then in perfect safetie. please you make mæ of a tryed friend, a true husband, of a faithfull counsellor, a profitable Ruler, and of an able helpe a deuout seruant, I doubt not but you shall finde that armor against all necessities, which shall both guard you against iniuries, and bring you much honor, my character you know best, for I am no stranger, and my zeale you may iudge by my former seruices, if they appeare faultlesse before you, there will be no let but ceremony, which to countenance against vertue, were to be guilty of soule superstition: you are wise, and that wise-  
dome I make my aduocate, if he approue me worthy to be yours, my faith shall make me your truest seruant among the liuing.

F.R.

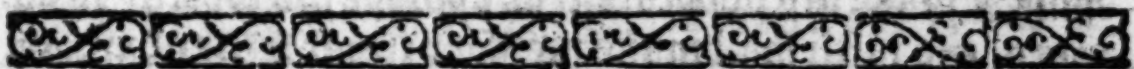
Her Answer.

**S**ir, had the comfort you sent me come in a true wedding garment, pure and one intire stuffe: I could not haue chosen but receiued it as the rest of your chaste counsels, and feasted on it with my daily meditation, but being so disorderly patcht, I can neither beliene it is yours, nor affect that which is so vncomely, you haue sent me delicate  
gilt



gilt pills, where though the gold be more then the poison yet is this poison enough to confound. therfore as much as with safety I may retaine (for your ancient friendship) I will keepe and study, the rest pardon me to returne you, not out of malice to your wish, but griefe at your folly. you haue told me so wel the excellency of my selfe, that it were madnesse in me to rûne into a second hazard, & how euer you would take from widowes the blisse of remembrance, yet deare Sir know that I can neuer forget this maxime, that the death of a good husband ought not to take away the loue of a chaste wife. To conclude, what you desire is not in my power to grant, for all my loue I haue sent with him to the graue, whom I haue lost; & to hold me without that portion, were to grasp a cloud that would bring forth a centaur, yet from thence should either fate or my follies deliuer it, I could not finde any more worthy then your selfe to keepe it: but the first is too constant, and the later (I hope) shall neuer so farre rule in mee: Therefore being as you were, a chaste counsellor, and no seducer, you shall finde mee, as you haue done, a faithfull cabinet full of your goodnesse.

E.L.



Another to the same purpose.

Much honoured Mistris.

**T**he neuer ceasing streame of your grations kindnesse hath by the oftē thinking on their due desertings profoundly imbosomed themselves in my gratefull affection, which no course of tedious time can extenuate, nor the longest absence by distance haue power to diminish. But oh most kinde meriter of all respect, whose good will I estimate as my greatestt enrichment, although the condigne requitall of such your rare courtesies lye not in the cōpasse  
and

and pzeind of my poze power, whose tenuity is not able to pay such an exceeding tribute: yet how willing my mind is, and how inextinguishable my desires, this illiterate Epistle will testifie. which deuoid of elegancies, yet full fraught with the vnfeigned pzeofession of my loue, pzomisseth the imployment of my vttermoſt powers in all seruiceable endeauors, if all that I can do may but defray one mite of your inualluable courtesies. Command my seruice, there is not any thing so great that I will shrinke, or so small that I will disdain to effectuate for your sake, hauing bowed to dye befoze any woꝝd issuing from your lips shall come in vaine.

But least I should defraet too much time from your moze serious affaires, in all humility I take my leaue.

Yours vnfeinedly.

P.Q.

Her Answer.

**T**hough I am far from vanity to esteeme my selfe woꝝthy of the stile of beauty, yet I see not how to excuse your swifter opiniõ, that would thereto annere so great an inconuenience: for it seemes (if things might be ordered by your minde) you would haue beauty and loue to be inseparable companions: oh grosse, oh absurd with and most execrable position against beauty and loue. When any vicious, deformed or beggerly creature, being but conducted by good fortune to the view of some rare Virgin, this vnworthinesse must not onely be entertained, but hee that rather deserved to be hissed away with disdain, must straight be made the owner and Lord of her loue: For shall it be in her power to giue a repulse to the pzeumption of indigne suiters, or to make free election of a deserving personage, to honour him with her gracious fauour.

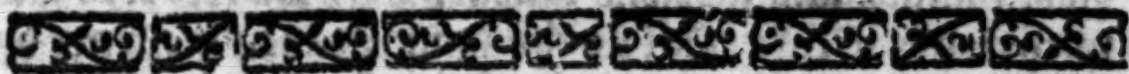
Wot



But I hope sir, being thus clearly convinced, you will confesse and make recantation of your error, I rest as I haue reason.

Yours not to vse.

S.M.



A Letter of discontent after the falling out of louers.

Most discourteous and painted friend,

**I**t is the custome of Louers after the breach of their league and amity, to send backe those gratuities which formerly passed as tokens of their naturall affections; you haue taken vp the fashion, and beléue me I abhorre any longer to haue nearenesse with one of your qualification, who for méere trifles can dissolve the knot of friendship, & shake hands with familiarity. For know that your mé- moire which was sometime deare in my thoughts, is now abhorred seeing that the firmnesse and stability of affection (then which there is nothing ought by men more religiously to be obserued) you haue so causelessly brought to annihilation. I may parallel my present condition to the state of the Sunne when pitchy clouds with enuironing him round about, séeme to extinguish his splendo2, but time the perfecter of all terrestriall things, may in due season impart a luster correspondent to my hopes, and sutable to my disposition: till when I will scozne the blasts of aduersity, and dead all those who hauing little or no merits, are endowed by the dispensation of the owle-eyed goddessse Fortune with large possessions: howsoeuer if I can finde no better to conuerse and spend my time withall then your selfe, I will turne Momus and for euer hate the society of men: but hauing a better opinion of the generallty, for your part I casheire you with this Vltimum vale and rest,

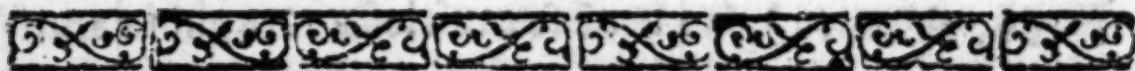
A stranger, A. B.

To his angry Mistris.

**A**s the declining of the Sunne brings a generall darknesse and discomfort, so the deficiency and absence of your shining and glorious favours hath overcovered mee with clouds of care. But as the Suns heavenly essence by the course of Nature is daily renewed, so here I humbly sue that your wonted gracious aspect may returne in your countenance, to solace the dolefull heart of your servant with vicissitude of long intermitted alacrity, it will redound to your great commendation, when the world shall understand that your heart is of ware, not inerozable & of a flinty & adamantine constitution, hoping that you will be as ready compassionately to grant as I doe submissively imploze the renovation of your love, I rest,

Yours in vnutterable  
affection.

R.S.



A Letter from an Apprenticc in London to his  
father in the Country.

**M**y humble duty remembred good father unto you and my mother. Having the opportunity of this bearer, I thought good to certifie you of my present being, giving you to understand that I am. I thanke god, and you, in good health, and very well placed here in London, where I am in hope to continue my here being to some profitable & good purpose: My Master bleseth me in good sort, and I want nothing that appertaines to such a one as my selfe. I trust you shall have joy of me, and ere a few yeares passe, I doubt not but so to behaue my selfe that I shall wel deserue

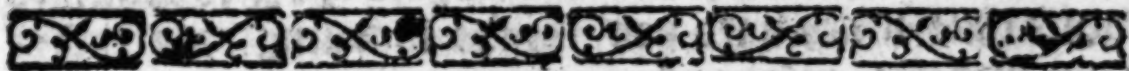


deserue this good liking that already I haue of my master, and farther credit at his hands and employment about his businesse. I hope you and my mother, and all our friends in the country are in good health. I pray you that you will write vnto my master as occasion serueth, and thanks him for his good blage: and if you can to remember him with some good conuenient token from the country. Thus desiring your daily blessings. and with a recommendation of my humble duty vnto you both, I take my leaue:

London.

Your louing and obedient  
sonne to command,

D.P.



A Letter from a husband to his wife.

**G**ood wife, considering my hasty departure from you, and my children, my hope is that you will haue that louing and respectiue care toward them and your family that appertaineth. I haue left manie things raw by reason of the suddennesse of my iourney, which stand vpon your good regard to be ordered, as namely the charge of my seruants, and the disposition of some other affaires and busineses. You shall now shew your selfe a discret and careful wife, if in my absence you will take vpon you to bee in my place. Regard and consider with your selfe, that seruants are negligent and carelesse, and if the master forget his owne profit, they are as ready as others to share with his gaires. Your painfull attendance to ouer-look them, shall straine their labours to my vsing, your desire to see to them, shall worke their vsing to my well deseruing. You must now a little forget neighbourhood, and walking for companie, considering the old proverbe, that when the Cat

is away, the House will goe play : If Master and Dame  
 haue both continued absence, seruants fall a wasting, and  
 doe what they list, You know good wife, I haue now ta-  
 ken a great charge of late vpon me, which with some care,  
 full looking to may turne to good. Let it not be grieuous  
 vnto you, nor thinke it hard that I thus make you parta-  
 ker of my charge, as I doe of my profit, for we are yoke-  
 fellows you know, and the charge is equall betwixt vs  
 both to be borne and supported. If as louing mates and  
 fellowes we draw forth together, we shall by Gods blessed  
 goodnesse see the fruits of our labours : our children shall  
 participate with vs of our trauells, and God shall prosper  
 our endeuors. And howbeit good wife I haue ever found  
 you such, as of whose care of my well doing I need haue no  
 doubt, yet if by the importance of my charge I be driuen to  
 write thus much vnto you, thinke that in greate trust of  
 your modesty, respect of your loue, and zeale to both our  
 goods I haue done the same. And though no distrust re-  
 maine of any one about mee, yet doe I put you in mind  
 what youth by too much sufferance and giuing of liberty  
 may be inclined to. This is all I would, and so much I  
 hope as you gladly will yeld vnto, Commend mee many  
 times vnto your selfe, Kisse my little ones, and remember  
 me, and commend my loue to all our friends, From Rye  
 the 3 of Feb2. 1633.

Your assured louing husband.

F.G.

Her Answer.

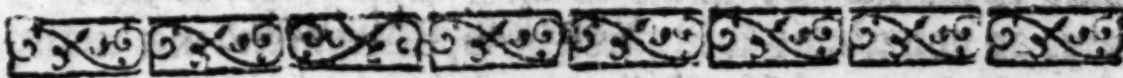
**G**ood husband, I am glad you haue at last remembred  
 your selfe by this bearer to write vnto mee, that haue  
 thought it very long untill I heard fro you. I doe greatly  
 reioyce at the good & prosperous successe of your tourney,  
 and



and chiefly, that you have ended your travell so well, being in so good plight & strength of body, as I vnderstand you are by your Letter. Wee are much beholden vnto our good friends in the country that haue given you so great & good intertainment, and I pray you heartily commend me vnto them. Your businesse here goeth very well, and your seruants both dutifull and diligent about their affaires, & wee haue no want but your presence. Which if you would haue hitherward, it were a comfort vnto vs all to see you, hauing bene as to me it seemeth, very long absent. But Master Prince, and his friends where you are, blesse you so kindly, that I thinke you cannot well tell how to winde your selfe out from your good company. Yet good husband remember that at last you must come home, and the sooner the better. I referre all to your good discretion: & so commend mee most heartily vnto you. From London,

Your euer louing and  
loyall wife.

R.G.



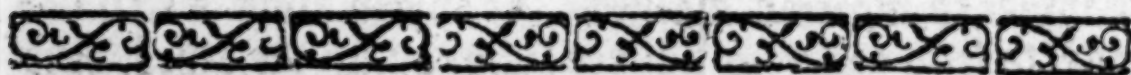
A Letter from one kinsman to another in London  
or any other place.

**M**y good Cousin, I am glad to heare of your good presence in London, and that, as I heare by your father and mother, you are so well placed there, and with so good a Master. It is no little comfort to mee to vnderstand that you doe so resolutely and with so good a minde dispose your selfe to your busines which I gladly wish you would continue. You must now remember, that your friends with great care, charge and industry haue brought you vp, and that their intent and meaning therein was, that in expectation thereof they should haue joy and comfort of you in

your elder yeares: for which as you have now bequeathed your selfe to this place of seruice, so must you for any feare of hard vsage, bitternes of speech, or other milke of taunts or rebukes, make account to endure and continue. It may be, being yet vnacquainted with the customes and vsage of London, you doe now think well of that which hereafter may turne to discontentment. But good cozen, so be it you haue no want of things needfull and necessary, frame your selfe to forbear all those crosse matters whatsoeuer, and glue your selfe wholly on Gods name, to the benefit of your seruice, you shall therein want no helpe furtherance or incouragement on my part, and if you performe it well and honestly, you shall not want when time serueth for an hundred pound or two, if in the meane space I may see your good care of your masters businesse, & please your mistress for therein you shall the better please your master. Your friends are all well, who reioycing in that already they see you so well behaued, doe daily pray to God to prosper & blesse you: and thus with my hearty commendations I bid you farewell Farndon this 18 of may 1633.

Your louing kinsman,

E.G.



A Letter to request the borrowing of an hundred Pounds.

**S**ir, I am bold in my great necessity, vnder assurance of your forwardnesse to doe mee good, to intreat your speciall aide & furtherance in two things, the one whereof is to lend me of your wonted fauours one hundred pounds, the other this bearer shall instruct you in, both which consist in your kind and friendly care of my welldoing, I am of opinion none other then your selfe can fit the occasion better,



better, And truly such is the force of imprisonment, as contrarie to that you haue wontedly knowne in me, my vnderstanding is quite decayed, and soze worne with want of liberty, and where the spirits are so distressed, it must needs follow, the memozie must needs sound nothing but discorde. In fine, Sir, it is in you to doe me good, and to make me by this onely action for euer beholden vnto you, wherein if I may so far forth presume of your fidelify, assure your selfe if euer God giue me liberty, to none so much as you shall I be poked in courtesie. Good master I. A. the matter hereof requireth some haste, whereto I must heartily intreat you faile me not.

Fare yce well this 18 of December. 1633.

Your imprisoned friend,  
I.S.

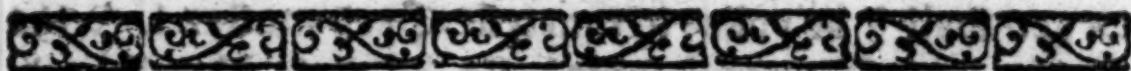
The Answer.

**G**ood Master I.S. needlesse it were you should intreat me in that wherein you haue found me most willing, & such who with small perswasion you may induce to a farre greater purpose then what in your last letter is required, the messenger I haue appointed to returne againe to my chamber to morrow morning, at which time I will not faile to send you your desired summe: for the other, hard wil it be for me to accomplish that wherein your selfe seeme so vnperfect, for that the dullest conceit forged from the most distempred of your imaginations cannot but sound far better tunes then the ripest of my inventions any way are able to deliuer. Neuerthelesse such as it is, or (by dislike of your owne) you haue will to account of, that will I prepare to your view, and put forward to your good speed, thinking it better by the deliery of a grosse deuice to satisfie the demand of a friend, then by the concealing the simplicity thereof, to be censured vn courteous. In conclusion,  
It

it is lawfull for you to vie me to the uttermost, and attell  
to your confirmed league of amitie, that in whatsoeuer  
you should employ me; wherein I desire you conceive no  
more then such as I intend to become, & you shall assuredly  
finde me,

Your faithfull friend.

J.P.



A Letter to his friend for breach of promise.

**M**After Iackson, I haue abstained hitherto to come or  
send unto you, partly being wearied with importu-  
nity, for that I thought, now two months being passed,  
I might in this space haue found a time conuenient where-  
in to haue ended with you. Having taken this cause in  
hand, I would (as in good reason I thought it fit) you  
should determine with me vpon some conclusions whereon  
to rest assured, I might thenceforth know where to trust  
and neither waste labour in coming to so small purpose,  
nor hinder my certaine businesse by the vnrusty stay of  
your affaires, as already I haue done. We haue talked  
many times, and set downe certaine limits, but to slender  
effects, as I neither know when to demand, nor you how to  
satisfie, so that depending vpon shadowes, I haue passed  
my time to small benefit, and you haue gone forward to  
little purpose. I doe pray you therefore that such meaning  
may assure vs, as already betwene vs hath bene perfoz-  
med. To delay me thus with niles, as I thinke is farre  
from a Gentleman, so doe I suppose you not intend it con-  
sidering how many waies thereby I am and shall bee hin-  
dred. This therefore may be the certaine meanes to satis-  
fie vs both, that you will (as on Friday last you promised)  
come & see the agreement betwene vs perfozmed, where-  
of



So I pray you aduertise your full resolution by this bearer.  
And so I bid you heartily farewell.

Arthingworth,  
May 7. 1633.

Your ever assured  
louing friend,

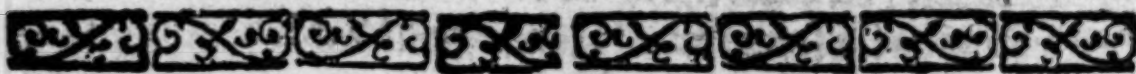
W.M.

The Answer.

**G**ood master W. M. my breach of promise in not ha-  
ving visited you with deserved requitall since my  
departure may breed suspicion & doubt of unthankfulnesse.  
but I hope, and by hope presume, that of your owne good  
disposition towards all your acquaintance, you will yeld  
vnto an approued tryall before you condemne. For my  
part, if I should not owe vnto you all honest minde & fide-  
lity, I should much contrary your great courtesie, & deser-  
uedly incurre the shame of ingratitude. You know that ha-  
ving strayed as I haue done out of the limits of a controu-  
led rule, & displeased so much thereby, as my case hath be-  
wraied vnto you, those whom by nature and duty I ought  
to be aowed vnto, It is reason that by a more strict obser-  
uance, I make amends for the residue. The day appointed  
I will not faile to meet to view the writings, and to make  
some conclusiō to your best satisfaction. Wherein you shall  
perceiue the honest minde of a Gentleman. My father it  
seemeth, though not yet by me, hath otherwise vnderstood  
how much I stand roaked (in all friendly league of amity)  
vnto you, and thinketh himselfe for all his sons unthrifti-  
nesse, somewhat therein to be tyed vnto you, His meaning  
is, one of these daies to intreat your pains hitherward. But  
howener defects be noted, or care by nature both binde, as-  
sure your selfe, whilest life leaueh alōg this earthly course:  
I am and will be also yours most vnsainely and most in-  
tire

tirely, To whom and to your good bedfellow, I most heartily and often commend me: Whinden June 28. 1632.

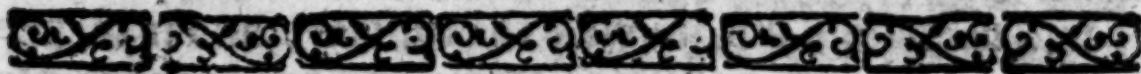
Remaining your much bounden friend  
in all good affection, I.R.



To his friend a Mercer.

**D**ear Sir, many salutations, &c. As my occasions fall out I still presume to trouble you, grounding my boldnesse upon the hope of your love and good will, I request you to send me as much blacke wattin as will make me a sute. I am your debtoꝝ already, beside in good will and love, a small summe, which soꝛ that it hath bene long detained, you may coniecture it to be desperate: yet on my credit it is as sure as any money in your purse: My intent being honest, but my stoꝛe not such as at this time I can satisfie: next Terme I expect the plenty of my purse will be so profuse that God permitting, without faile soꝛ these and the old debt you shall be fully discharged. Acknowledging my selfe beholden, I rest

Your thankfull friend, R.G.



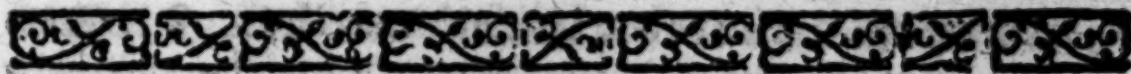
A Letter to an vnfaithfull friend.

**S**ir, I haue euꝛ been so loath to thinke ill of you, that I scarce allow mine owne witnesse against you, oꝛ those strong presumptions that make me thinke you meane to keepe no promises noꝛ no friends: If you wilt needs haue it so, let our acquaintance now grow sickly and die pꝛimate, leſt I be blamed soꝛ trusting, and you soꝛ deceiuing so great a trust. Foꝛ since our love is grown into so desperate



a Lethargie, I will not wake it, for I had rather it should passe away in a trance, and the remembrance thereof neuer hereafter to be mentioned. What your friendship was I cannot tell, but I am assured to the vieto it was fit for greater courtesies then I required: what mine stone was, iudge when you haue most need of a friend. Neither will I tell you what a sea of misfortune your breach of promises hath let in vpon mee: but Ile bid you now and euer farewell, and with my letter conclude all rites of loue betwixt you and me, and rest,

No longer your friend, I.B.



## A Letter for admittance into seruice.

**H**onourable sir, I haue euer bene so addicted to follow you, that in mine owne opinion I am an old retainer of yours: so I am within a degree of a household seruant, which is all the promotion that by the intercession of this Letter I strive to come to. But I see so many steps directed that way, that I may perhaps come too late, yet I hope your number is not full, though it be great, and I suppose all are not invited that goe: but some intrude. I will take it for extreame bounty to be admitted within your gates: what I doe so press by no necessity, but to saue my longing, and to satisfie my desires, which a farre off haue euer serued you. Once I thought to haue moued this suit by friends, but that way I was affraid it might miscarry: and I was not very willing it should succeed, being loath to intangle my selfe in obligations, to other men, when I was to passe my selfe ouer vnto you, so I thought best to write, for to speake had bene too bold. So in hope at the least of a pardon, I rest as far as in me lies,

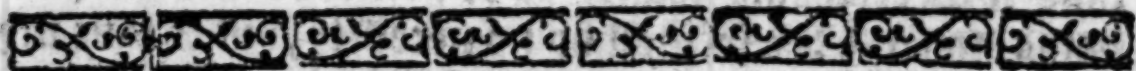
Your humble seruant,

B. I.

To his loue vpon a long and fruitlesse affection.

**I**t is the propertie of none but of a faint-hearted souldier  
 for receiuing a repulse or two to retire from assault and  
 to giue over his enterprise: when euery one ought to vse  
 constant perseuerance, that he may worke the accomplish-  
 ment of his desires. The long vnsuccessiuenesse of my suit  
 hath not made me weary of your service, though since I  
 first fell in loue with you (O might the examples incite  
 you no longer to retard your affection) the Sun hath gone  
 about the world, and giuen a new life to all things which  
 the tempestuous winter had left forlorne: the ioyfull Mer-  
 chant hath made a rich returne, and the laborious husband-  
 man hath cramm'd his barnes with the plenteous crop of  
 the euer fruitfull earth: Euery one hath his hope, onely  
 my selfe moze vnfortunate then all the rest, in the reuolu-  
 tion of time haue not had any successe. I am you see pære-  
 lesse in misfortune: it rests in you with the sympathie of af-  
 fection to make me pærelesse in felicity, of which I will ne-  
 ver despaire, there being no heart that is moze infinitely  
 affected toward you then the heart of

Your truest seruant E.I.



To his sweet heart in the Country

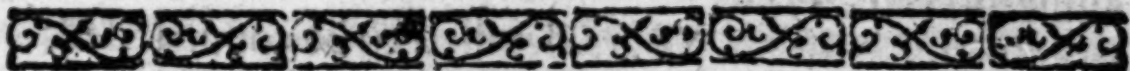
Sole miltris of my affections:

**T**hough in London where I now am many singular  
 beauties are daily obnious to my sight, yet I beseech  
 you not to charge my unfained lines with flattery, if in the  
 iust collaudation of your owne vnparalleled pulchritude I  
 prefer your vnmatchable forme befoze the rarest of their  
 composures: Their formosities come as far short of yours



as the splendor of the twinkling Stars come short of the all-enlightning radiance of the Sun beames, and they all are as far your inferiours in the ravishing gifts of Nature, as the bilipended pipples is inferiour to the worth of the most high prized Carbuncle. To which outward endowments when I reuolue in my mind (and no houre passeth without commemoration of your perfections) how sweetly you haue vnited all internal graces, then am I distracted with grieve for my absence, and though my unrestrained mind be inseparably with you, yet I curse the distance of place which deprives me of all comfort, because it disloynes mee from your presence, which till I enjoy, all ioy is banished out of my breast, and I haue given grieve a free dominion in me, I cannot say I rest, but I remaine,

Your entire vassall, I.S.



## A Yong mans Letter to his enamoured mistris.

Fairest of a thousand:

**I**f you were not absolute, I would not be thus resolute: I onely to loue you whom I hold only worthy louing; your beauty tels mine eye, and your kindnesse perswades my heart of your goodnesse, for, if you were proud, I should disdain you, & if you were not faire, I would not affect you, now, if you know the one true in your selfe, belieue the other in me, and wrong not your selfe, in not doing me right: Modesty and nicenesse are two, and delays are the hindrances of happinesse: to urge your patience with importunity I will not, and yet to giue ouer my suit I cannot: and therefore knowing your iudgment sufficient to vnderstand your owne good, I hope to finde your disposition not inclinde to hurt him, who remaineth

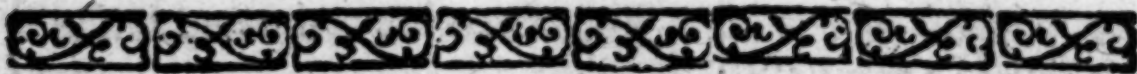
Yours as you will, and  
when you will, T.D.

Her kinde Answer.

**M**y worthy friend, how long I haue loued you, was from the first instant that I beheld you: how much I doe loue you, I would I could tell you: how dearly I will loue you, my best endeuors shall truly make knowne vnto you: & if vnder heauen I may finde such happinesse on the earth as to be regarded in your fauour, I will thinke it tole that figures earthly felicity: for your excellence, being almost without exception let my loue be without comparison and if truth may haue beliefe, let my affection be without suspition: and as you haue won my heart with your eyes, make it happy with your hands, so hauing that so sweet an aspect can haue no sowzenesse in spirit, in the hope of your kinde answer, I rest,

Yours, deuoted to be commanded.

A.B.



A Letter of Request.

**K**inde friend: I would entreat a kindnesse, but for feare of a deniall, not out of mine owne deserts, but rather your disposition, which I doubt is too neare the nature of the world, rather to grant then to gratifie: excuses are more trialls of wit then truth, & a faithfull heart hath no stop in loue, and therefore, that I may not haue cause to wrong my selfe in my assured confidence of your worth, doe right to your selfe in the good of that performance, that, without parenthesis may conclude in a full point of kindnesse. The substance of my suit I haue sent you by word of mouth because my hand-writing shall not witnesse my unhappines if my hope should faile the expectation of my affection, in which without greater care of the contrary, I rest,

Yours as you know, D.S.

A

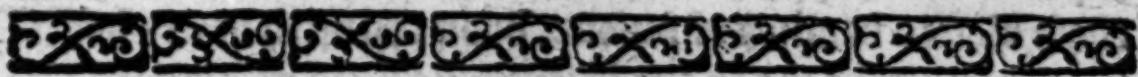


A Letter of discontentment, vpon a deniall of a request.

My small friend,

**I** thanke you for nothing more then that I haue nothing  
to thanke you for, wherein you rather considered what  
I am, then your selfe should be: pardon my folly, in presu-  
ming aboue knowledge, and beleue me no more if I fall  
into the like error of opinion: you willed me to make ac-  
count of your uttermost power, in my good: It may be it  
was in wishes, which are easily requited, but when they  
are void of effects, they are but troubles to reason: I can-  
not spell without letters, nor vnderstand words without  
substance, therefore loath to be tedious, when I haue un-  
willingly bene troublesome, I pray you let complements  
be without cost, so shall kindnesse continue in that conditi-  
on of iudgement that shall make me alwaies ready to re-  
quite your deniall of my request as I finde cause,

Your friend to command, R.D.



To a Court Lady.

**I**f loue could dissemble, patience could haue no passion,  
but truth is so tyed to affection, that as a sound limbe it  
cannot halt. If you aske the reason of my affection, looke  
into the excellency of your owne worth, and then if there  
be any extreame, take it in the best part, which groweth  
from your selfe: for such is my iudgement of your deser-  
uing, as can be answered in nothing but in admiring: for  
surely, hee must be either very dim sighted that doth not  
preferre your beauty to all shadowes, or dull witted that  
vnderstands not the honour of your worthinesse. Giue me  
leane then, out of the sight of my best sense, and sense of my  
best

best sight, to deuote my seruice to your command, that  
may giue a happinesse to your employment: and while idle  
Complements are but Court fashions, let plaine truth  
haue such acceptance in your fauour, that suspition may  
not wzong a true affection: in which I bow euer to rest,

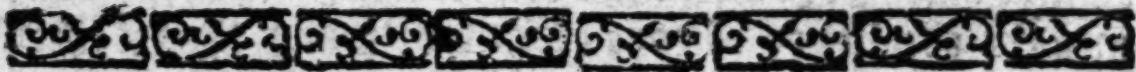
Yours all, or mine owne not at all,

I.G.

Her complementall answer.

**V**Vhat words shall I vse to win your affection, hold-  
ing vnder heauen my happines but in your loue:  
if trauaile would please you in your affaires, I would neuer  
rest but in your fauour: gifts might be graciously accepted,  
I would giue you my selfe for your loue: if pittie might  
moue you, I would lay befoze you my passion: & if my death  
might onely answer your desire, I would not line to des-  
paire of your comfort: but loue being a spirit of that nature,  
that onely is pleased in being himselfe, I will leaue all my  
hopes to that happy houre, wherin he may in your eies, cast  
those blessed beames of fauour, vpon the faith of my heart,  
that may make me in the infringible bond of deuoted ser-  
uice to the last period of my life,

Yours wholly and onely to be  
commanded, E.N.



*FIN IS.*

